

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9296

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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UNCLAS RANGOON 0688

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS BM

SUBJ: LAST BCP LEADERS IN PEGU YOMA KILLED

1. GUB HAS ANNOUNCED THAT BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (WHITE FLAG) CHAIRMAN THAKIN ZIN AND GENERAL SECRETARY THAKIN CHIT, THE LAST BCP LEADERS ACTIVE IN THE PEGU YOMA, WERE KILLED IN CLASH MARCH 15 WITH BURMA ARMY PLATOON. A BCP SOLDIER WAS KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS (INCLUDING THREE YOUNG BOYS OLDEST OF WHOM APPEARS TO BE ABOUT 13) CAPTURED IN SAME ACTION, WHICH OCCURRED ON THE PHUTKYA STREAM FLOWING INTO PEIN TRIBUTARY OF YENWE RIVER, ABOUT 14 MILES WEST OF KYAUKTAGA ON THE PEGU-PYU RAILWAY (QA 7000).

2. COMMENT: THE DEATH OF THAKIN ZIN AND THAKIN CHIT COMPLETES GUB SUCCESS IN 1974 AUNG SOE MOE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRADITIONAL BCP STRONGHOLD IN PEGU YOMA AND SHOULD MARK THE END OF THE BCP RESISTANCE IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, GUB VIRTUALLY ERADICATED BCP PRESENCE IN PEGU YOMA TWICE BEFORE, IN LATE 1950'S AND IN LATE 1960'S, ONLY TO SEE IT REAPPEAR BOTH TIMES. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS IS DUE NOT ONLY TO ITS OWN EFFECTIVE COUNTER-INSURGENCY TACTICS (INCLUDING FORCED RESETTLEMENT OF POPULATION IN STRATEGIC HAMLETS TO DENY FOOD SUPPLIES TO INSURGENTS) BUT TO BCP'S OWN SAVAGE AND BLOODY INTRA-PARTY PURGES WHICH BEGAN
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IN 1967 AND CONTINUED AS LATE AS 1973.

3. THAKIN ZIN BECAME BCP CHAIRMAN FOLLOWING A GUB AGENT'S ASSASSINATION OF THE PARTY'S FIRST LEADER THAKIN THAN TUN IN 1968. WITH HIS DEATH AND THAT OF THAKIN CHIT, THE LAST LIVING SENIOR BCP OFFICIAL IS THAKIN BA THEIN TIN, RESIDING IN PEKING. THE VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF THE PEGU YOMA BCP, WHICH GOES BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN THE PARTY FIRST WENT UNDERGROUND IN 1948, DOES NOT, OF COURSE, AFFECT THE BCP NORTHEAST COMMAND, CREATED MORE OR LESS FROM SCRATCH WITH CHINESE SUPPORT BEGINNING AROUND 1967. NORTHEAST COMMAND HAS CONSISTENTLY ENJOYED DIRECT SUPPORT FROM AND LIAISON WITH THE PRC, AND HAS HAD ONLY NOMINAL AFFILIATION WITH THE "OLD" BCP. OSBORN

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